



## City of San Marcos

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## NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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### River Foundation Honors Jo Secrest as 'Friend of River'

The San Marcos River Foundation has honored Jo Secrest, Public Services Program Coordinator for the City of San Marcos, with the annual "Friend of the River Award" for 2009.

She was honored at a ceremony on February 13 for her work in promoting and coordinating the household hazardous waste collection (HHWC) events for San Marcos and Hays County residents.



**FRIEND OF THE RIVER:** Jo Secrest, left, receives the San Marcos River Foundation's "Friend of the River" Award from Michelle "Misha" Bussemey for environmental stewardship.

"This is a passion for me and I cannot think of an award that I could be more proud to receive," Secrest said.

The City established the HHWC program about a decade ago to provide a way for citizens to dispose of household hazardous waste properly.

The free drive-through event makes disposal safe and convenient and helps keep dangerous chemicals and medicines out of the San Marcos River and the environment.

During fiscal year 2009 at four collection events, 1,023 citizens participated by bringing 84,250 pounds of hazardous waste that was diverted from the landfills.

The City of San Marcos and Hays County annually budget disposal money for these events. The City requests and has received grant money to offset the cost of disposal for surrounding communities.

The City recently received a grant of \$25,920.00 to open the HHWC area two days a week. The service is expected to begin later this year.

The Public Services office receives approximately four phone calls a day from residents asking when the next HHWC event will be held.

Secrest has worked for the City of San Marcos for nine years and coordinates the solid waste and recycling contracts, the household hazardous waste events, drainage utility fees, and provides clerical assistance to the Airport.



PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Jo Secrest organizes the quarterly Household Hazardous Waste Collections for San Marcos and Hays County that have safely disposed of more than 84,000 pounds of chemicals in the last year alone.

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